

**Minutes of the Regular Public Art Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2007
Conference Room 360, City Hall**

1. CONVENE: 7:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Huston, Wolfe

Commissioners Cervantes and Rosenberg were absent.

STAFF PRESENT: Douglas Vu, Planner III, and Tony Ebster, Recording Secretary

3. MINUTES: Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 29, 2006

Vice-Chair Huston motioned to continue the minutes of November 29, 2006 to the Public Art Commission meeting of March 28, 2007.

Chair Lee seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote – 2. [Abstain: Commissioner Wolfe – 1; Absent: Commissioners Cervantes and Rosenberg – 2.]

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Carol Burnett with the Alameda Art Association introduced herself and informed the Commission that they wanted to raise awareness of local artists. She expressed the desire for developers and project applicants to use local artists. She requested the Alameda Art Association be placed on the City's Artist Directory. Commission Member Huston agreed to refer the Alameda Art Association to the groups identified in the Artist Resource List.

Commissioner Wolfe asked if there were other art associations in Alameda. Ms. Burnett gave some information on other organizations in Alameda that can be called upon for projects. The Commission agreed that as part of the to do list, they would only maintain an Artist Resource List.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Approve Meeting Calendar for 2007

M/S Huston/Lee to continue item to meeting of March 28, 2007

AYES - 3; NOES - 0

b. Review of Alameda Towne Centre History Panels and Update

Mr. Vu mentioned that the developer for Alameda Towne Centre is installing more art than is required by the Ordinance.

Mr. Vu asked if there were any changes or concerns regarding the panels for Alameda Towne Centre. Chair Huston mentioned that too many people were omitted and thus the panels didn't reflect the diversity of Alameda and the panels form a false history. Otherwise, she believed the panels were really well designed. Commissioner Wolfe agreed there wasn't enough representation regarding the diversity of Alameda. Chair Huston expressed concern that non-white people were only shown as workers and not as heroes or persons of distinction. The Commission agreed there needed to be more acknowledgment of the diversity and segregation in Alameda's past. It was suggested that either additional panels be incorporated or current panels be updated to include the diversity of the City.

Mr. Vu offered to draft a letter to Tad Savinar to commend the work done on the panels as well as offer thoughts and suggestions on what could be added. Chair Huston agreed to proof the letter prior to mailing.

c. Review of Alameda Free Public Library Art

Commissioner Wolfe stated that he liked the panels at the new Free Library but expressed some issues with their installation. He liked the stone panel inside. He felt the rabbit was not as good and was worried that someone could injure himself or herself on it. Chair Huston stated the rabbit was supposed to be interactive and felt that it wasn't. She also questioned the poor quality of the work.

Commissioner Lee expressed concern that a screen behind the children's desk had been proposed but wasn't there.

The Commission agreed the outside panels were successful but were concerned the windowsills hang over the panels too far and take attention away from the panels. They felt that the architecture frames the panels poorly and are oriented more towards rainfall and not the integration of the art. This resulted in the panels looking too subtle. The Commission also felt the original plans didn't clearly illustrate how the panels would be installed, therefore making it difficult to visualize how the finished product would look. The finished panel was not exactly what was expected.

The Commission would've liked to see more detailed plans for the art in order to get a better sense of the context. They would've liked more consideration given to the integration of the architecture and the artwork.

The Commission then proposed the idea of a catalog, or record of art projects. The catalog would be for future Commission Members and would consist of several items:

1. The original art proposal for a given project
2. A review of the finished product
3. Commission Member comments and opinions on the finished product and how accurate it was to the original proposal.

The Commission felt this would be a valuable asset and a good reference for creating and updating the art review process.

d. Performing Arts Program at Bridgeside Shopping Center

Chair Huston felt the conditions of approval did not reflect the programming that the applicant and Commission agreed to, and therefore, the resolution approving the Bridgeside amphitheatre project was inaccurate. She expressed that the applicant should be held to their agreed details, even though specific details weren't reflected in the resolution.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair Huston expressed concern regarding whether the renovation of the Historic Alameda Theater will fulfill the public art requirement. She stated that any restoration work already being done as part of the project's scope couldn't also be used to fulfill the public art requirement. She stated there were inaccuracies identified in Development Services' staff report to City Council. Commissioner Wolfe stated that he disagreed with Chair Huston's assessment of the Ordinance and its Policy Guidelines regarding what aspects of a project can be used to fulfill the public art requirement. Chair Huston and Commissioner Wolfe agreed to review the Ordinance and its Policy Guidelines and discuss their findings at the next meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Vu, Secretary
Public Art Commission